

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: GOT'S POPPY ORGANIZATION DISMISSING MOST OF STAFF

1. MOST EMPLOYEES OF GOT'S POPPY ORGANIZATION, WHICH FUNCTIONED AS PLANNING SECRETARIAT FOR POPPY BOARD, WERE GIVEN ONE MONTH NOTICE AT END OF JANUARY ENDING THEIR EMPLOYMENT AS OF FEBRUARY 28 (END OF TURKISH FISCAL YEAR). THE MOVE WAS INITIATED BY POPPY ORGANIZATION DIRECTOR, ADEM KARAELMAS, AND REFLECTS COMBINATION OF UNCERTAINTY OVER FUTURE ROLE OF POPPY ORGANIZATION, END OF PLANNING PHASE OF POPPY BOARD'S WORK, AND EXPECTATION THAT KARAELMAS HIMSELF WILL LEAVE POPPY ORGANIZATION VERY SHORTLY. IT IS NOT RPT NOT INTERPRETED HERE AS SIGNAL THAT INCOME REPLACEMENT PROGRAM FOR FORMER POPPY REGION IS ENDING.

.POPPY ORGANIZATION AT ITS PEAK CONSISTED OF ONLY FOUR FULL TIME PROFESSIONALS, ALL RETIRED OFFICIALS, AND SMALL CLERICAL STAFF. REMAINDER OF TOTAL OF ABOUT 50 EMPLOYEES WERE PART-TIME TECHNICAL STAFF EITHER MOONLIGHTING FROM FULL-TIME JOBS
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WITH OTHER GOT AGENCIES OR SECONDED PART-TIME FROM OTHER

AGENCIES. POPPY ORGANIZATION'S PRIMARY FUNCTION WAS TO DEVELOP REGIONAL PLAN, WHICH HAS BEEN COMPLETED (CURRENTLY BEING TRANSLATED). UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, KARAELEMAS WILL KEEP ONLY A FEW EMPLOYEES ON ROLLS FOR TIME BEING.

3. INTERAGENCY POPPY BOARD, CHAIRED BY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, WILL CONTINUE TO FUNCTION AS BEFORE, SCREENING PROJECT PROPOSALS FROM LINE AGENCIES. WITH PLANNING PHASE OF INCOME REPLACEMENT PROGRAM NOW COMPLETED, KARAELEMAS SPECULATES THAT SECRETARIAT FUNCTION NOW BEING PERFORMED BY POPPY ORGANIZATION MAY BE SHIFTED FOR NEXT PHASE TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WHICH HAS IMPLEMENTATION RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOST PROJECTS. POPPY ORGANIZATION HAS SO FAR DRAWN MOST OF ITS PERSONNEL FROM SOILS PRODUCTS OFFICE (TMO), MINISTRY OF COMMERCE WHICH KARAELEMAS ALSO HEADS.

4. KARAELEMAS CONTINUES TO BE DIRECTOR OF POPPY ORGANIZATION, BUT HE EXPECTS TO BE REPLACED SHORTLY. HE WAS GAZETTED AS COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR OF TURKISH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON JUST BEFORE FORMER GOVERNMENT LEFT OFFICE, AND HE IS PRESENTLY INSISTING THAT POSITIVE BE OFFICIALLY RENEWED BY PRESENT GOVERNMENT. HE HAS FORMALLY BEEN REPLACED AS GENERAL DIRECTOR OF TMO BUT STILL HEADS IT DE FACTO.
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